

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SES-02 SAA-01 SSM-03  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 /095 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5337

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, AU

SUBJECT: ISRAELI REACTION TO KREISKY STATEMENT

1. THE REACTION IN ISRAEL TO AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR KREISKY'S VITRIOLIC WEEKEND ATTACK ON ISRAEL IN THE DUTCH NEWS APER TROUW, IN WHICH HE DESCRIBED PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AS A "POLITICAL GROCER" AND DESCRIBED ISRAEL AS A SOUTH AFRICAN-STYLE POLICE STATE, HAS BEEN GREETED HERE WITH A MIXTURE OF ANGER AND DISGUST. FOREIGN MINISTRY DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL MOSHE ALON CALLED IN THE AUSTRIAN CHARGE AND TOLD HIM "THE INSULTING STYLE OF KREISKY'S REMARKS WAS UNPARALLELED IN RELATIONS BETWEEN ENLIGHTENED STATES . . . CHARACTERIZING THE JEWS WITH SUCH CONCEPTS AS THESE REMINDS US OF DARK PERIODS, NOT NECESSARILY DISTANT IN TIME, AND THE IMAGINATION FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT

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THE FACT THAT IS WAS CHANCELLOR KREISKY WHO USED THEM," A CLEAR REFERENCE TO KREISKY'S JEWISH BACKGROUND.

2. PRIME MINISTER BEGIN SAID THAT HE VIEWED KREISKY'S REMARKS WITH "COLD CONTEMPT." NOT TO BE OUTDONE IN THEIR INDIGNATION, LEADERS OF THE LABOR PARTY, WHICH ONLY TWO MONTHS AGO HAD TRIUMPHANTLY RECORDED A SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN

POLICY ACCOMPLISHMENT BY SECURING A RELATIVELY PRO-ISRAELI STATEMENT FROM KREISKY DURING PERES' VISIT TO SALZBURG, REACTED WITH EQUAL VIGOR. PERES CALLED KREISKY'S STATEMENTS "VERY GRAVE AND REVOLTING" AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER RABIN SAID THAT, "IF KREISKY REALLY MADE THOSE STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM, HE HAS RULED HIMSELF OUT OF MEDIATING IN THE MIDDLE EAST."

3. PUBLIC REACTION WAS ALSO HARSH, WITH MOST MAJOR ISRAELI DAILIES CARRYING SHARPLY CRITICAL EDITORIALS. ISRAEL'S LEADING POLITICAL CARTOONIST, ZE'EV, IN MA'ARIV, PICTURED KREISKY AS A TREE URINATING ON ITS ROOTS, AND A JERUSALEM POST CARTOON DEPICTED KREISKY IN A SERIES OF FRAMES TURNING INTO A SHADE OF HITLER. BOTH THE PRESIDENT OF THE ISRAEL-AUSTRIA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION, FORMER LIKUD PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL ELIMELECH RIMALT, AND LEOPOLD GOTTESMAN, AUSTRIA'S HONORARY CONSUL GENERAL IN HAIFA, WHO ASKED US TO INFORM PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AT CAMP DAVID, ANGRILY RESIGNED THEIR POSITIONS.

4. COMMENT: KREISKY HAS LONG BEEN THE SUBJECT OF DEEP SUSPICION AND A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF CONTEMPT IN ISRAEL, BOTH BECAUSE OF HIS PERCEIVED PRO-ARAB STANCE AND HIS OPEN DISSOCATION FROM HIS JEWISH ORIGINS, ALTHOUGH HIS STANDING HAD RISEN SOMEWHAT AS A RESULT OF THE KREISKY/BRANDT STATEMENT. HIS LATEST OUTBURST, HOWEVER, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAS MADE HIS NAME A DIRTY WORD IN ISRAEL AND RABIN IS PROBABLY RIGHT IN SAYING THAT WHATEVER MAY HAVE REMAINED OF HIS ROLE AS A MEDIATOR IS NOW BEYOND REDEMPTION. END COMMENT. VIETS

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## Message Attributes

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